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SUBJECT: MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ON DECEMBER 3

REF: PAP 1343

¶1. (U) The Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) through its President Mr. Max Mathurin announced that the next round of elections, comprising the remaining parliamentary elections and the municipal (mayoral) and local elections, would be held on December 3. Mathurin also announced that the United States, Canada as well as the GOH have committed funds for the elections to be disbursed as soon as next week.

¶2. (SBU) Comment: Despite this announcement by Mathurin, the dates do not become official until printed in the "le Moniteur," the government's official publication. MINUSTAH elections officials cite logistical issues that may keep the December date from materializing (reftel). Candidate registration closed on September 15, 2005 but some of the files remain incomplete and many candidate names may have been misspelled and need correction. According to MINUSTAH, it took a long time to "clean the list" before printing on previous occasions and such a delay before these elections would make a December 3 election impossible. And, the boundaries have not yet been established for the local elections. Notwithstanding these logistical problems, post and MINUSTAH are cautiously optimistic about the December 3 elections. They are feasible but would require the CEP to present its technical calendar immediately and iron out the logistical problems presented. End Comment.

TIGHE